



# COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR



*Community Navigator services emphasize, promote, and coordinate the use of community resources and natural supports to address the participant's needs in addition to paid services. Community Navigator services are designed to strengthen participants' social valued roles in their community and assist the participant to identify, connect, participate and fully engage in integrated community activities and resources of interest to the participant in accordance with their ISP goals.*

## **Q: Why was Community Navigator included in the new waiver?**

Based on feedback from staff, participants, families, providers, stakeholders; Community Navigator was added to the Waiver to provide robust supports to help participants connect with community resources. While CLS-Ind was an important service for those who may need support to access the community at a general level, we consistently received feedback about the need for a robust service provided by skilled direct support workers to provide better results-focused opportunities for participants to fully engage within their communities in sustainable ways beyond personal assistance and more basic navigation of the community. As well, CLS-Ind was revised by lifting the expectation for the service to fade and Community Navigator was introduced (please see response to question above).

## **Q: Where can we find the Community Navigator application?**

For current providers who would like to add Community Navigator to their array of services, a request for the add-on application can be sent to [doh.dddcrb@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.dddcrb@doh.hawaii.gov).

## **Q: Is Community Navigator 1 participant at a time? or can sessions be for multiple participants at one time?**

The Community Navigator staff to participant ratio is one (1) staff to one (1) participant. It is not a service for multiple participants at the same time.

## **Q: What is the rate reimbursement for Community Navigator?**

The 15-minute unit rate for Community Navigator is \$12.71 for all islands/\$13.80 for Big Island.

## **Q: What about someone providing Community navigator from one agency when there are two agencies identified as providing CLSI. Would each agency have to have their own community navigator staff person, or could one person provide CN services for both agencies?**

Community Navigator service is authorized for the participant. So, in the example from the question, the Community Navigator would be expected to work with both CLS-Ind providers, workers and any other applicable circle members. The general idea is that the Community Navigator would work with the participant and other circle members, help the participant identify and make connections to their chosen activity/resource, provide coaching/modeling with the participant then fade the service. If it is determined that the participant needs ongoing support to continue to access the activity/resource then the Community Navigator would be expected to "train" and help transition supports to the CLS-Ind worker (or whomever would be providing the ongoing support).

## **Q: Is it only 80 hours per year, one time? Or is it 80 per plan year?**



For the latest information visit our website – <https://health.hawaii.gov/ddd>

For additional questions, email – [doh.dddcrb@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.dddcrb@doh.hawaii.gov)

The limitation is 80 hours per plan year. However, it is not necessarily an automatic 80 hours for every participant, every plan year. Similar to other services, authorization depends on the participant's needs, preferences, goals, appropriateness of the services, etc. (based on the person-centered plan).

## Q: What is the difference between Community Navigator and Community Learning Services Individual (CLS-Ind)?

Features that make Community Navigator different from CLS-Ind are:

### Community Navigator is:

- **Time limited** – the service is intended to help the participant reach a specific, targeted, and attainable outcome(s); including helping the participant to build skills and natural supports that will empower the participant to be able maintain that outcome as independently as possible.
  - **Higher expectation for integrated community activities** – one of the main emphasis of the service is to help participants have opportunities and learn skills they need to engage in truly integrated community activities of their choice and interest. It introduces the idea of participants being a part of integrated community activities and helping to develop those opportunities; as opposed to participants just doing activities in the community. Integrated community activities includes happened within the greater community that are open and utilized by all members of the community (not only people with I/DD) and where people with I/DD have opportunities to meet and form relationships with people without an I/DD. A couple of examples are:
    - the difference between a participant and the CLS-Ind worker shooting baskets at the park by themselves; versus the Community Navigator reaching out into the community, talking with people and finding a league or a park where people play “pick-up” basketball games, working with the participant to join and become a member of the league or “pick-up” games then fading the service; or
    - the difference between a participant and the CLS-Ind worker picking up rubbish at a beach/park; versus the Community Navigator reaching out into the community, talking with people, finding a neighborhood group or community club that does service projects, working with the participant to join and become a member of that group or club then fading the service.
  - **Higher expectation for participant choice based on interests (and experience)** – the service is also intended for the Community Navigator to have tools and skills to be able to work with the participant and help the participant explore their strengths and interests in depth. Community activities for participants are sometimes limited to what they know or what has been safe and comfortable (e.g. malls, parks, libraries, etc.) which there is nothing wrong with. Community Navigator is meant to provide an option for participants who may have specific interests they want to explore or who just want to explore and gain experiences because they don't know what they like or don't like; or want or don't want yet because they have not had the opportunity to try.
  - **Focus on connections and engagement in the community** – the focus is a little more narrow than CLS-Ind and is intended to be on helping participants (who want to) explore their interests in community engagement and doing the individual reach out into the community, talking with people, and really helping to build those connections and opportunities for participants that could hopefully lead to friendships, broader social networks, etc. Community Navigator may also provide the guidance and coaching/modeling with the participant needed for the participant to access and/or engage with the people in the chosen resource/activity. This would be more targeted skill building than what is typically provided with CLS-Ind. For example, a participant may utilize CLS-Ind for more general community skills such as learning street safety, or improving shopping/purchasing skills, etc.
  - **Broad vision** – similar to employment services, the hope is that the Community Navigator service will intentionally help to increase awareness, education, etc. within neighborhoods and communities to help open doors and reduce barriers that have historically limited participants' access to resources, activities and opportunities to participate.
- DDD will be offering trainings on Community Navigator service.